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Message from the Scientific Director

Dr. Rémi Quirion, OC, PhD, FRSC, CQ
Scientific Director

This issue will likely welcome many of you back from summer holidays and back to the realities of everyday life, with few more challenging than the upcoming CIHR Operating Grants competition. In Budget 2007, CIHR received a \$37 million increase to its base budget from the Government of Canada. Eighty-five per cent of this new funding is used to support additional projects under the open Operating Grants program (see [here](#) for details on full allocation). We will have to step up our efforts to demonstrate Canada's excellence in the health sciences. More than ever, we need a coordinated approach and the help of scientists and voluntary organizations alike in advocating for more research funding.

Our Fifth Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the first Canadian Association of Neuroscience meeting in May, was the platform for many discussions on the subject of research funding. We were honoured to be joined by The Honourable Michael Kirby, Chair of the new

Mental Health Commission of Canada. He presented an overview of the Commission's structure and objectives. We were pleased to hear his views on research funding and that it should be done through the CIHR model. We look forward to working with Mr. Kirby and the Commission in support of his vision and on the development of a strategy for neuroscience, mental health and addiction in Canada.

After much consultation, the second CIHR-INMHA Strategic Plan (2007-2011) was officially launched at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who provided input and contributed to the development of this important document! With your continued collaboration and support, we look forward to the challenge of moving our vision, goals and objectives from paper into action and into reality. If you have not yet received a copy of the plan, please contact Ramia Jabr (Tel: 514-761-6131 x. 3932).

CIHR leadership will soon be undergoing a major change with the recent announcement by Alan Bernstein to step down as President. He has served in this role for seven years and has led the way to formulate and implement the unique CIHR vision and structure. A tremendous privilege and an even greater challenge he met with enthusiasm, energy and wisdom. For the Institute Scientific Directors who have worked closely with Alan since the inception of CIHR, his departure marks the end of an era. We all shared an incredible experience and bonded through mutual achievements, trials and tribulations. I have truly enjoyed working with Alan over the years and appreciated his insight and leadership. I will certainly miss him.

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Ongoing Funding Opportunities

Joint Program Announcements with US National Institutes of Health (NIH):

- Biology of Manual Therapies
- Shared Neurobiology of Fragile X Syndrome and Autism
- Brain Disorders in the Developing World: Research Across the Lifespan

Japan-Canada Joint Health Research Program

Please note that the deadline for applications for the CIHR joint grant competition with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science will be changing from September 15 to a later date (TBD). The Request for Applications will be posted on the CIHR website in the near future.


- For further information on international funding opportunities, please contact Astrid Eberhart at Tel: 514-761-6131 ext. 3936 or 450-719-0640.

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Upcoming

The EJLB-CIHR Michael Smith Chair in Neurosciences and Mental Health

CIHR and INMHA, in collaboration with the EJLB Foundation and the The Royal Society of Canada, will shortly re-launch the EJLB-CIHR Michael Smith Chair in Neurosciences and Mental Health. Please keep checking the CIHR website for the announcement.

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External Funding Opportunities

NIH Program Announcement: Inhalant Abuse: Supporting Broad-Based Research Approaches

This PA led the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) encourages research on all aspects of inhalant abuse. The initiative follows a 2005 consultation meeting led by NIH with participation from CIHR-INMHA and the CIHR Institutes of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (CIHR-IAPH) and Human Development, Child and Youth Health (CIHR-IHDCYH).

Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation: Emotional Adaptation, Adjustment and Coping After Acquired Brain Injury

This new research funding initiative was recently launched by the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF). The Call for Letters of Intent can be found on the ONF website in "Funding Initiatives", by clicking on the August link.

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The Kavli Prize

Fred Kavli is a Norwegian-born physicist, business leader, innovator, and philanthropist dedicated to supporting research and education that has a positive, long-term impact on the human condition. The Kavli Prize was established as a joint venture between the Kavli Foundation, the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. The main objective is to award three international prizes for outstanding scientific work in the fields of Neuroscience, Nanoscience and Astrophysics. The Kavli

Prize will consist of US \$1,000,000, a scroll, and a medal. The Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, every two years, beginning in 2008. The Call for Nominations for 2008 Prizes will close on December 15, 2007. For detailed information about the Kavli Foundation and the Kavli Prize (including nomination guidelines), please see <http://www.kavliprize.no/>.

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Funding Announcements

Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders and Addictions Program

This initiative is a partnership with the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation, AstraZeneca Canada Inc. and the CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program. The full funding announcement is available [here](#).

- Sandra Boye (University of Montreal): *Rewarding effects of nicotine in an animal model of schizophrenia*
- Dzung Le (University of Toronto): *Development of an animal model of nicotine and alcohol co- abuse*
- Robert Levitan, Arun Ravindran, Kevin Chopra (University of Toronto): *Stress response in chronic major depression*

Synthesis Grant: Knowledge Translation in Mental Health

CIHR's Knowledge Translation Portfolio has partnered with CIHR-INMHA to fund the three top-ranked applications to this RFA launched in June 2006. Many thanks to the KT Portfolio for their crucial support of this initiative.

- Amy Salmon (BC Women's Hospital): *Beyond plain language: Exploring strategies for community-driven knowledge translation led by and for women with addictions*
- Howard Schachter (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Provincial Centre of Excellence in Child and Youth Mental Health): *Strengthening the Science of Knowledge Translation in Child and Youth Mental Health: Synthesizing the Evidence*
- Heather Stuart (Queen's University): *Improving Worker Mental Health Through Stigma Reduction*

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Meetings and Events

Mental Health in the Workplace: National Meeting

The second national conference on mental health and addiction in the workplace took place on May 17 and 18, 2007 in Vancouver, and was a great success. The meeting was jointly sponsored by CIHR (CIHR-INMHA, the Institute of Population and Public Health and the Institute of Gender and Health), BC Mental Health and Addiction Services (BCMHA), and Simon Fraser University (Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction, CARMHA). Congratulations to key organizers Dr. Joti Samra (CARMHA), Dr. Elliot Goldner (CARMHA), and Peter Coleridge (BC Mental Health and Addiction Services), whose hard work led to a meeting that exceeded our most optimistic expectations.

Highlights of the conference included the plenary address by Dr. Julian Barling from Queen's University on key factors known to be important in building a psychologically healthy workplace. A second highlight was the address by Robert Waite, Senior VP at Canada Post, in which he noted that workplace mental health is the cause of choice for Canada Post, and stated publicly that Canada Post is committed to taking a leadership role in this area.

A third highlight was the CIHR session entitled "Building Alliances between Canadian Researchers and Industry: Mental Health in the Workplace Research Priorities". Attendance was high and the room was full of enthusiasm and ideas as Jean-Yves Savoie ably led the discussion on the CIHR research initiative and its

future. There was an outstanding presentation by Dr. Alain Marchand, Université de Montréal on his research project recently funded through the first CIHR RFA. And finally, there was an exciting and very well-received presentation by Dr. Mark Attridge from Watson Wyatt Worldwide on a gap analysis on workplace mental health that had just been completed. The document is entitled "Mental Health in the Labour Force: Literature Review and Research Gap Analysis". Anyone wanting a copy should contact Barb Beckett (Tel: 613-948-4877).

Other sessions at the conference focused on workplace practices and initiatives being undertaken by a variety of employers, stress in the workplace, stigma, knowledge transfer, and addiction. For a description of the conference and copies of most of the presentations that were made, please visit this website.

One Landmark Occasion - a Trio of Events: Fifth CIHR-INMHA Annual Meeting..First CAN Meeting..First Canadian IBRO Neuroscience School

The first joint meeting of INMHA and the Canadian Association of Neuroscience (CAN-ACN) was an appropriate celebration of international partnership and Canadian excellence in research. Held in Toronto on May 22-25, the event brought together representatives of CIHR-INMHA's partner organizations, consumers, scientists and research trainees from Canada and developing countries. The first two days followed the format of previous INMHA Annual Meetings, with the second day marking the beginning of the inaugural CAN-ACN meeting. A select number of students from Africa and South America attended both meetings and stayed on for a week-long specialized course organized as part of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Neuroscience School Program.

Fifth INMHA Annual Meeting

At this year's Annual Meeting, the three major scientific topics were hearing, anxiety and spinal cord injury. The first two topics were organized as panel discussions with presentations by researchers and research trainees highlighting scientific advances, as well as perspectives from patients and representative organizations. Recipients of the Barbara Turnbull Award presented their prize-winning work on spinal cord injury. The scientific program again featured excellent presentations by a number of recent Brain Star awardees.

The session on Hearing provided a beautifully balanced overview of recent advances in research and treatment and their impact on the individuals suffering from hearing loss, their every day challenges and the support offered through two representative organizations. The Panel was chaired by Dr. Prudence Allen from the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Robert Harrison (University of Toronto) and Dr. Susan Scollie (University of Western Ontario) were joined by Mr. Rex Banks from the Canadian Hearing Society and Ms. Gael Hannon from the Hearing Foundation of Canada. Ms. Hannon captivated the audience with her candid and humorous personal story interspersed with pertinent factual information and statistics. She noted that hearing loss was "coming out of the closet" but emphasized that stigma was still very much a reality. As much as 44 percent of persons afflicted by hearing loss are afraid to seek help or treatment. Ms. Hannon also talked about the increase of noise-induced hearing loss in children and young adults. The Hearing Foundation of Canada is addressing this urgent problem through Sound Sense, an educational program targeted to pre-teens. The program, supported by a grant from the Trillium Foundation, helps students to understand their risk and how to prevent hearing loss. More information can be obtained from the Foundation's website.

One entire afternoon of the Annual Meeting was devoted to "A Showcase of Partnerships" highlighting a variety of national and international initiatives and CIHR-INMHA collaborations. The program covered outreach, advocacy, research funding, training and networking. Melanie Martinez from the US National Institute of Mental Health presented the NIMH Outreach Partnership Program, the model for the INMHA Outreach Initiative for NGOs. This was followed with an example of CIHR-INMHA's outreach portfolio - The Seniors Mental Health Research Network. Dr. Norbert Myslinski of the University of Maryland, founder and Director of the International Brain Bee was paired up with 2002 IBB winner Marvin Chum. The program also included an overview of CIHR-INMHA's partnerships with the Academy of Finland, the IBRO Neuroscience School Program presented by IBRO President Dr. Albert Aguayo, the CIHR Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research and brief descriptions of the International Neuroethics Network, the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH), and the International Partnership for Mental Health Research (IPMHR). CIHR-INMHA Advisory Board Chair Dr. Tony Phillips summarized the benefits of collaboration and the need for scientists to work with the voluntary organizations in support of their fundraising, advocacy and education efforts.

On day two, The Honourable Michael Kirby, Chair of the new Mental Health Commission of Canada, joined the meeting to provide an overview of the Commission's structure and objectives. He called his appointment a

"daunting challenge that will depend on the ability to reach out and touch". The initial areas of focus of the Commission will include stigma, a Knowledge Exchange Centre with a database of best practices, youth and seniors. Canada is the only G8 country without a mental health strategy. The Commission's task will be to develop this strategy with input from stakeholders. The role of the Commission will be as a catalyst or facilitator and to work in partnership with relevant organizations and individuals. It will have a small office in Ottawa and the Head Office will be in Calgary. Provincial appointees to the Board have been made and a process is being defined to select people for the remaining eleven positions to be filled by September. In response to questions from the audience, Mr. Kirby talked about the Commission's plans with regard to research funding. He believes research should be done through the CIHR model and intends to work closely with INMHA. Various delegates thanked Mr. Kirby for his leadership and his commitment to the mental health and addictions field.

One of this year's meeting highlights was the annual awards dinner which included a number of special guests and announcements. The 2007 Partnership Award went to the Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation (CPRF) and was accepted by CPRF President & CEO Kevin McNeil. The award was presented by Phil Upshall, President of the Mood Disorders Society of Canada, last year's winning organization. Marnie Duncan and Marja Van Sickle from the University of Calgary were the co-recipients of the first Marlene Reimer Brain Star of the Year award. INMHA also recognized five very special members of the Institute Advisory Board who completed their mandates in 2006 or 2007 - Jane Stewart, Alain Lesage, Marty Steinbach, Eric Single and chair Tony Phillips.

We were pleased to host another special award presentation to Barbara Turnbull, President of the Barbara Turnbull Foundation. Inez Jabalpurwala, on behalf of NeuroScience Canada, recognized Barbara for her courage, dedication and personal commitment to spinal cord research. The session on spinal cord injury featuring past winners of the Barbara Turnbull Award was a fitting tribute to her contributions to the field.

The dinner also provided the opportunity to officially welcome the IBRO students from Africa and Latin America who had just arrived for their 2-week stay in Canada. Earlier in the day, they were greeted by IBRO President Albert Aguayo during his presentation on the Neuroscience School Program. The students took part in the final presentation of the evening, the surprise announcement of the FRSQ-INMHA Albert Aguayo Fellowship. Rémi Quirion, together with Alain Beaudet, President and CEO of le Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ) made the presentation to Albert Aguayo following a short slide show leading up to the surprise. The students had prepared a joint message which was read by fellow Argentinian Sofia Valles. A very touching ending to a great evening!

CAN-ACN Annual Meeting

Attendance at the first CAN-ACN Annual Meeting exceeded everyone's expectations with over 800 registrants. Many delegates of the CIHR-INMHA Annual meeting including Institute Advisory Board members, staff and a representative of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) stayed for the duration of the conference and enjoyed the stimulating scientific program and social interactions. The IBRO students were full participants in the meeting and each presented a poster of their work. Congratulations to CAN-ACN President Jonathan Dostrovsky, President-elect Brian MacVicar, the CAN-ACN executive and organizing committee members for a truly successful conference!

Building on this year's success, CIHR-INMHA and CAN-ACN will again join forces in 2008 with a fully joint meeting in Montreal on May 26-28, 2008.

CIHR-INMHA will explore the possibility of holding future Annual Meetings in partnership with other organizations to ensure we cover the full spectrum of our mandate and constituency. This may be done on a rotating basis. We would welcome any suggestions or proposals.

First Canadian IBRO Neuroscience School: Fundamentals of Epilepsy

CIHR-INMHA has been a sponsor of the IBRO Neuroscience School Program for a number of years. The Institute supports one school in Africa and one in South America annually. Schools are taught by neuroscientists from around the world who volunteer their time for the one- to two-week specialized courses and offer continuous mentorship. Many Canadians have participated in past schools and speak of their rewarding experience. The Toronto School was unique in that it was the first IBRO School held in North America. Unlike other schools where the faculty members travel to their areas, students from Africa and Latin America were brought to Canada. It provided them with the added experience of attending a scientific meeting

and visiting a number of Canadian laboratories.

Epilepsy was chosen as a very relevant field for the two regions and for existing expertise in Canada. Both school leaders, Drs. Ante Padjen at McGill University and Peter Carlen at the University of Toronto, are veteran IBRO tutors and accepted the challenge of organizing the school with much enthusiasm. A number of individuals assisted with the many organizational details and made this a truly joint effort: Shelley Goodman (University of Toronto), Justine Viens (McGill University), Grace Fowler (Uniglobe) and Astrid Eberhart (CIHR-INMHA). Special thanks also to Anne-Cecile Desfaits and Lindsay Wallace of CIHR-IHDCYH.

Financial sponsorship was also a true partnership effort and included IBRO, Sfn, National Academies of Sciences, American Epilepsy Society, Canadian Epilepsy Research Initiative - Canadian League against Epilepsy (CLAE-CERI), NeuroScience Canada, CAN-ANC, CIHR-IHDCYH and CIHR-INMHA.

The students were selected with the help of the IBRO Regional Committees for Africa and Latin America based on a competitive process that produced over 70 candidates. The final list included graduate students, clinical trainees and junior staff from Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela (two of the 16 selected students were unable to travel). After attending the CIHR-INMHA and CAN-ANC meetings, the students had one day of free time before their intensive week of lectures and lab work. All students and out-of-town tutors stayed at the University of Toronto Chestnut Residence with the aim to provide more chances for interaction.

The majority of the tutors were members of CLAE-CERI or the American Epilepsy Society. The faculty also included Dr. Kathleen Michels of the NIH Fogarty International Centre and Dr. Albert Akpalu, a young neurologist from Ghana, and Alumnus of several IBRO Schools. The course covered a selected number of topics from basic, clinical and experimental neuroscience of epilepsy. Demonstrations of laboratories and clinical units followed the topics of the day and students were divided in smaller groups for the lab visits. Evenings were reserved for presentations of general interest. Guidance and mentorship was also provided by a number of local trainees. Students were provided with certificates at the final celebration dinner. Special guest Albert Aguayo was extremely pleased to see his idea for a North American School come to fruition. It was evident that the students from seven countries and two distinct regions had bonded over the course of the two-week period. It is our hope to organize other Canadian schools in the future and to open it up to other regions of IBRO.

A detailed report of the Toronto School and photo gallery can be found on the IBRO website.
A big thank you to all who made this important initiative happen!

Prizes for INMHA-related posters at the Canadian Student Health Research Forum

The annual Canadian Student Health Research Forum, organized by Dr. Ed Kroeger, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba, was held in Winnipeg on June 6 and 7, 2007. Two student posters won prizes in CIHR-INMHA-related areas of research. Oliver Braubach from Dalhousie University, won a gold award for his poster entitled "Using Zebrafish to Study Behavioral and Neural Manifestations of Alzheimer's Disease", while Matthew Parsons from Memorial University won a silver award for his poster entitled "Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ Induces Persistent GIRK Channel Activation in Orexin Neurons". Congratulations Oliver and Matthew! To see the meeting program and poster abstracts, go [here](#).

Another Successful Nanomedicine Meeting

The 5th Annual Nanomedicine meeting was recently held at the University of Waterloo (June 20-21, 2007). Performed in collaboration with the 4th Annual NanoForum meeting and the 5th CFBS Northern Light summer conference, this year featured an expanded array of research talks and partnership opportunities. Co-sponsored by CIHR and the Institutes of CIHR-INMHA, CIHR-IG, CIHR-IMHA and CIHR-ICR, along with our partners NRC-NINT, NSERC, CFBS, ERA-CAN and the University of Waterloo, this event received the highest participant evaluation ranking of any Nanomedicine meeting to date.

The Nanomedicine meetings are designed to help bridge specific research disciplines in the nano-health domain. The topic this year was Nanostructures and their Biomedical Applications, and included symposia on targeted nano-delivery systems for drug and gene therapy, diagnostic and imaging applications of nanotechnology, and nanotoxicology and potential health effects. Each symposium began with a plenary lecture by a renowned International expert, followed by leading Canadian researchers and students, with a special government outreach presentation at the end. Additional highlights of the meeting included a special

event Luncheon, hosted by ERA-CAN featuring presentations of European Union funding opportunities, and a Dinner, hosted by the School Pharmacy and featuring a stimulating presentation by Ken Coates on the important role of the social sciences and humanities in nanotech research.

The meeting format proved extremely popular with the participants, and we are currently seeking support for a future event. For more information, please contact Eric Marcotte, Associate Director for Regenerative Medicine and Nanomedicine.

2007 IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience

2500 delegates from 63 countries attended the IBRO World Congress in Melbourne, Australia, on July 12-17, 2007. CIHR-INMHA had the privilege to share the much-visited Society for Neuroscience (SfN) booth. The Congress offered a multitude of plenary lectures, symposia, special interest forums and poster sessions, as well as 20 satellite symposia around Australia and as far away as Taiwan. A very popular event was the Australia/New Zealand Brain Bee competition. The winner, 16-year-old Australian Quinn McGennisten from Lavalla College in Traralgon, Victoria, will be traveling to North America next year to participate in the International Brain Bee (IBB). The IBB is currently being restructured and we are exploring the possibility of holding the 2008 IBB competition in Canada.

The IBRO Governing Council meeting included presentations from the four countries short-listed to host the 2011 Congress. Michael Fehlings presented the bid from Canada and achieved to place Toronto as one of the two finalists. It will be a tough competition with Florence as the opposing city and a very strong competing proposal. As IBRO was incorporated in Canada in 1961, it would be a wonderful opportunity to host the 50th anniversary meeting. The final vote will take place in September and we keep our fingers crossed for Toronto!

The 2007 Congress will be a tough act to follow, particularly the social events. The Gala Congress Dinner took place in the beautiful Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria and the final Cocktail Party at the Melbourne Museum. A more intimate social event was the farewell dinner in honour of Albert Aguayo to celebrate his retirement from the IBRO presidency. For a report on the Congress complete with pictures, please see this webpage.

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Special Initiatives and News

FRSQ-INMHA Albert J. Aguayo Fellowship

As mentioned in our Annual Meeting summary, this special award was announced by Rémi Quirion and FRSQ President and CEO Alain Beaudet in Toronto on May 22. The Fellowship marks Albert Aguayo's outstanding contributions to neuroscience in Quebec, Canada and the world. In his current role as President and formerly as Secretary General, he is a long-term champion of IBRO and the Neuroscience School Program, recipient of many prestigious awards including the Prix du Québec (Wilder-Penfield) in 1994.

The purpose of the award is to enable students from developing countries to spend a three month term in a Quebec laboratory. One fellowship of \$8,000 (including living and travel expenses) will be awarded annually to be funded equally by CIHR-INMHA and FRSQ through a joint selection process. The fellowship will be open to students from developing countries in four of the six IBRO Regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central & Eastern Europe and Latin America. The special criteria for the award, the application and the selection process are being jointly developed by IBRO, FRSQ and CIHR-INMHA. The selection process will be coordinated with the assistance of the relevant IBRO Regional Committees. Fellowships will be tenable in Quebec within twelve months of being awarded. A list of prospective host laboratories will be provided as part of the call for applications but students may identify their own hosts.

Individuals interested in acting as fellowship hosts should contact Astrid Eberhart.

The Burden of Neurological Diseases, Disorders and Injuries in Canada


In June 2007, the Canadian Brain and Nerve Health Coalition (CBANHC) and the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF), in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Public Health Agency of Canada, published a report on the burden of neurological diseases, disorders and injuries in

Canada. The report is intended to improve understanding of the epidemiology of neurological conditions and the economic impact on the Canadian health care system. The report provides estimates of the economic burden, disability-adjusted life years and hospital utilization associated with 11 neurological conditions. The neurological conditions highlighted in the report are Alzheimer's Disease, ALS, brain tumours, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, head injury, headaches, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, spinal injuries and stroke. The report is available [here](#).

Barbara Turnbull - University of Toronto Honorary Degree Recipient

Each year, the University of Toronto honours people who have made outstanding contributions in their fields by presenting them with honorary degrees. Congratulations to Barbara Turnbull for joining this very distinguished group!

Her honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on June 18, 2007 at Victoria College. Barbara's profile and information on Convocation 2007 can be found on the University of Toronto website.

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Upcoming Events

Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health - 2nd National Conference: New Directions in Seniors Mental Health

Toronto, Ontario, September 24-25, 2007

This conference will offer over 50 paper presentations and 16 workshops in a variety of themes related to seniors mental health. Registration is available online.

2007 International Conference on Schizophrenia - Lighting the Path: Hope in Action

Toronto, Ontario, September 27-30, 2007

This event is hosted by the World Federation for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders, the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario and the Schizophrenia Society of Canada. The meeting will focus on recovery, medical perspectives, cultural issues, human rights and diversity. Rémi Quirion will host an expert Science Panel featuring James Kennedy, Robin Murray and Robert Zipursky. For more information, please see <http://conference.world-schizophrenia.org/>.

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse National Conference

Edmonton, Alberta, November 25-28, 2007

Working locally with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA) are pleased to be hosting Issues of Substance 2007, Canada's national conference on alcohol, drugs and other substances. For further information and registration details, visit this site.

Society for Neuroscience 2007 Annual Meeting

San Diego, California, November 3-7, 2007

CIHR-INMHA will again exhibit at this year's SfN Annual Meeting. **Please visit us at booth # 4510** to pick up a copy of our Strategic Plan 2007-2011 and to learn about the Institute's current activities and funding initiatives.

The CAN-ACN Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at the San Diego Conference Centre (room to be determined). Future AGMs will be held at the CAN-CAN annual meetings in Canada. However, a Canadian neuroscientist social will likely be organized at future SfN meetings.

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CIHR-INMHA Institute Advisory Board

May 2007 IAB Meeting

A short Institute Advisory Board meeting was held during the INMHA Annual Meeting in Toronto on May 23, 2007. The main item for discussion was the new budget and its implications for INMHA. Members agreed on a reorganization of the IAB Focus Groups to maximize member involvement and allow for face-to-face discussion during future IAB meetings. The Board also discussed the future of the INMHA Annual Meeting and its association with future CAN meetings. This will also be a main topic for the IAB teleconference in August.

Comings and Goings

The annual Institute Advisory Board (IAB) renewal process ensures a regular turn-over of IAB members for the 13 CIHR Institutes. The 2007 renewal sought replacements for our four departing members: Jane Stewart, Mary Jardine, Donald Weaver and long-standing IAB Chair Tony Phillips. The following new members will begin their terms in September: Robert Adamec from Memorial University, Brian MacVicar from the University of B.C., Deanna Groetzinger from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and Elizabeth Dickson, a retired MRC/CIHR official and advisor. IAB biographies are available on the INMHA website.

Congratulations.

.to IAB member **Jane Stewart** on her recent appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada!

.to new IAB member **Brian MacVicar** on his appointment as Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada!

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Request for News Items

We welcome submissions such as upcoming news-worthy research publications or other news, external funding opportunities or special initiatives that may be of interest to our readers. Please forward information to Astrid Eberhart.

